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4PM-TURNER; 1st LEAD; A017; 170

4BY DONALD M. ROTHBERG

4ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) - ADM. STANFIELD TURNER, PRESIDENT CARTER'S SECOND CHOICE TO HEAD THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, MAY FACE TOUGH QUESTIONING FROM SENATORS WHO WOULD PREFER A CIVILIAN IN THE JOB, BUT THE NOMINATION APPEARS IN NO DANGER.

SEN. DANIEL K. INOUE, D-HAWAII, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT HEARINGS ON THE TURNER NOMINATION WILL BEGIN ON FEB. 22. INOUE SAID THE COMMITTEE STAFF IS RUNNING A BACKGROUND CHECK ON THE ADMIRAL.

THE SENATOR SAID HE WOULD TAKE NO POSITION ON THE APPOINTMENT UNTIL AFTER THE HEARINGS.

BOTH SENATE MAJORITY LEADER ROBERT C. BYRD, D-W.VA., AND MINORITY LEADER HOWARD H. BAKER JR., R-TENN., SAID AFTER CARTER MADE THE NOMINATION MONDAY THAT THEY KNEW OF NO STRONG OPPOSITION TO TURNER.

TURNER IS COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF ALLIED FORCES IN SOUTHERN EUROPE. CARTER'S FIRST CHOICE FOR THE CIA POST, THEODORE SORENSEN, WITHDREW FROM CONSIDERATION IN THE FACE OF STRONG SENATE OPPOSITION, PARTICULARLY AMONG CONSERVATIVES.

4ANOTHER CARTER: 4TH GRAF.

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